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UAW Local Stands Firm At G & O

The negotiating team of UAW Local 979 takes a break from their work long enough to pose for Modern Times photographers. From left to right (standing): William Baker, Frank Ciaffone, Caesar Morris, and Louis Scasino. Seated: Joseph Altieri, Mike Rubis (Vice President), Stanley Rogers (President), Stig Lindholtz (UAW international rep.), and John Julianelle. (M-T photo by Matt Borenstein and David Adams)

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

"If the company hasn't come up with anything concrete, we will strike on February 1!" This is the stand of the 265 member local of the United Auto Workers at the G. & O. Radiator Company in New Haven, according to Local President Stanley Rogers.

The negotiating team of Local 979 presented their position to a meeting of the membership on January 13, and asked them for a vote of confidence. In response the workers voted 155 to 7 in favor of going on strike if necessary to get their demands.

"We're going over 5.5% in our wage demands," Rogers told *Modern Times*, "and if it's turned down, it will have to be turned down by the price board in Washington."

The previous three-year contract did not give workers a cost-of living increase and their wage gains were eroded away by inflation. "It's not enough, what we're making," Manuel Rivera, a union member, told *Modern Times*. With the cost of living the way it is, you can't make enough on 40 hours. Only on overtime, and they're cutting that down now. *I have a wife and three kids and you can't live on what we're getting.*"

One Year Contract

Rogers also explained that the union is pressing for a one-year contract instead of the three-year contract which is presently expiring.

"We believe that with the one year contract, that Nixon's Phase II may come off during the year and next year we won't be limited by it. We have no intention of negotiating for more than one year at the present time."

Morale is good according to union secretary Garfield Coleman, "From the way I see it, the company thinks the union is weak and they don't want to move from their position. I think they've been misled. In the past the local itself wasn't unified in its efforts and the company used this to its advantage.

"One thing that has come out so far is that the workers are realizing how they've been short-changed over the years. This can make them united in itself, to realize how the company has been using them against each other."

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Bus Cuts Hurt Riders And Weaken Union

by Virginia Walbot
Modern Times Staff

The Public Utilities Commission began hearings January 17, to decide whether the Connecticut Company proposal to eliminate all bus service after 7:30 pm, all Sunday and holiday service, and to raise the basic fare to 40¢ are needed to keep the company running.

The Amalgamated Transit Workers, the union representing Connecticut Company bus drivers, and citizens interested in better bus transportation are fighting these proposals. The union, in fact, has proposed publicly-owned, fare-free mass transit.

Bus users are still suffering from cuts in service made last fall: no night service in many areas and elimination of Sunday transportation. "How's a person supposed to get to church on the Green?" an older lady queried, when I asked bus passengers about the bus company.

The bus driver added that the proposed cuts would include the elimination of 357 runs and the loss of about 20 bus drivers in the New Haven area -- that's 10% of the drivers.

Gengras Not Hurting

"For 55¢ from Mt. Carmel to the Green, you'd think that Gengras could afford to give us half-hour service, instead of just once an hour," another woman added. Her seatmate replied, "He takes his big cut every year -- he has enough money to buy and see the company three times over."

Another passenger reminisced about the old trolleys in New Haven, "For just a dime you could go from downtown out to Mt. Carmel, practically to Sleeping Giant really, and that was only 30 year years ago."

"People don't like going to downtown anymore -- it's expensive to park and too crowded to drive," a bus riding lawyer added. "If the bus was cheap, like 15¢ or even a quarter, people would ride it more and save money too," a Macy's employee on the way to work remarked.

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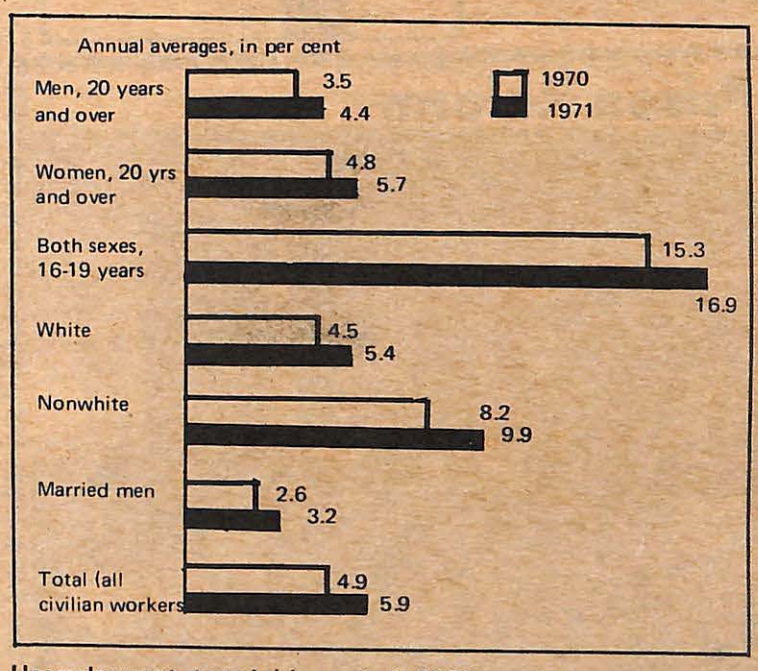
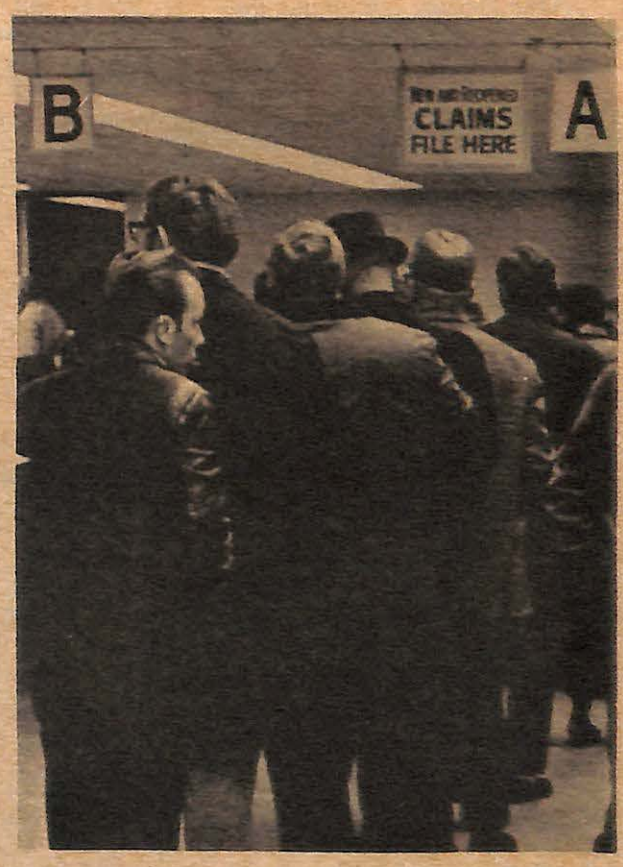
Who Are Today's Unemployed ?



Unemployment started rising early in 1970 and hit six per cent of the labor force by the end of the year. It stayed at that figure, with only minor wiggles up and down, despite Nixon's predictions that unemployment would drop significantly. An average of five million people were unemployed in 1971 and the rate of joblessness was the worst in a decade. Most economic forecasters predict that unemployment *may* drop to about 5.5 per cent by election day. See story on page 5. (M-T photo by Virginia Blaisdell)



Greg Stanton (l.), chairman of the New Haven Angela Davis Defense Committee, and Fania Davis Jordan, sister of Angela, speak at a press conference before appearing at the January 21 rally on the Angela Davis case at Yale Law School. (M-T photo by Virginia Blaisdell.)

Sister Speaks On Davis

by Betty Condon
New Haven Angela Davis Committee

Fania Davis Jordan brought a New Haven audience an optimistic and spirited report on the world-wide effort to free her sister Angela Davis.

She addressed 500 people in the Yale Law School Auditorium on January 14, together with three other speakers: John Williams, a New Haven attorney who is bringing charges against the police department; Jarvis Tyner, national chairman of the Young Workers Liberation League and Communist Party candidate for Vice President; and Haywood Burns, chairman of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and one of the Davis' lawyers.

The Davis case, Jordan pointed out, illustrates a potential power of people to achieve victory over a system which works against them. Despite what she called a " conspiracy to kill my sister " by President Nixon and Ronald Reagan, massive organized efforts have kept Davis' defense efforts strong.

She pointed to an outpouring of public protest over her sister's prison conditions in Palo Alto, which forced an improvement in those conditions, as an example of " the united voice of an organized people ". Such unity, she claimed, would eventually result in Davis' freedom.

Jordan urged her audience to seek the support of their community organizations- church groups, unions, etc. - for justice in the Angela Davis case. " The fight to free Angela Davis is a fight to free ourselves," she said. Haywood Burns elaborated this idea, saying " Her crime was that in a white, racist, male chauvinist society she was a Black radical woman who said No.... If you're saying no, you're in jeopardy too."

John Williams made it clear that Angela Davis is not an isolated victim of a system of injustice. He described the horrendous conditions in the prison for women in Niantic, Connecticut, and drew the same conclusion from this systematic brutality that Davis has drawn: " the ultimate answer to prisons today is not to reform them; it is to tear them down."

A Layman's Guide To Lawsuits

How To Sue In The Small Claims Court

by Andy Melville

Does someone owe you money? If the amount is so small you don't feel you want a lawyer's help, don't give up. Maybe the Small Claims Court is for you.

The Small Claims Court is set up so that people can sue others for small amounts of money in a speedy, uncomplicated way. You can do it without a lawyer and without knowing the first thing about law. Here are a few pointers.

If you know that someone owes you money, you probably do have a claim which the judge will recognize. All you have to do is get into court so you can tell the judge your story. To do this, just go to the Small Claims Court Clerk's office (in New Haven, at 169 Church St. on the first floor). Ask the Clerk to give you a form for the Small Claims Court. While you're in the office, look the form over. To sue, all you have to do is fill in the blanks. The form explains itself, and if you don't understand, ask one of the clerks -- they are very nice people.

In a general way, the form requires you to give the name and address of the person you want to sue, and write out a short statement of why you think that person owes you money. You also have to state that the person is not in the Armed Forces and state how you know this (a statement that you know from "personal knowledge" is good enough).

Once the form is filled out, the clerk sends one copy by certified mail to the person you are suing, keeps one for the Court, and gives you one. The fee is three dollars, which you get back if you win. Later on, you'll get a notice in the mail of the trial date (always a Monday morning).

Three days before the scheduled trial date, your opponent has to give you and the court a written statement of why your claim is not justified (this is called an "answer"). Unless this has been done, your opponent cannot present a defense to your claim. But your opponent can ask the judge to postpone the case until a later date to allow an answer to be filed.

If your opponent doesn't show up in court, just tell that fact to the judge when your turn comes. If all the rules have been followed, and the other party knows about the case and simply has decided not to come to court and contest your claim, the judge will grant your claim. You'll get a piece of paper in the mail notifying you that your claim has been granted.

If your opponent does give you an answer and shows up for trial, then just go ahead and tell your side of it to the judge. Be simple and to the point, and don't worry about legal language. The judge will ask you the right questions to help you out. You can also present witnesses for your side, and cross-examine the other side. The judge will decide, either on the spot or later, after thinking it over. Again, you'll be officially notified by mail.

Once you get a notice you've won, the other person has to pay you on demand. If you have trouble, don't argue. Just go back and ask the Small Claims clerical staff to help you enforce the judgment. If you stick with it, you'll eventually get paid.

Unlike the other courts, Small Claims is speedy, efficient, and often a lot of fun -- especially if you win!

Police Use Of Informers Widespread

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

Many people are aware that American police departments, with New Haven being no exception, often supply a number of people with heroin in order to obtain their services as informers, but it is rarely stated in public. On January 20, New Haven attorney John Williams not only stated it publicly, but he also cited evidence to prove the point.

Williams spoke before a generally sympathetic audience of 75 people at Conte School. His talk was sponsored by the Human Relations Council and the Committee for Peace and Justice.

Williams is presently representing clients in several suits against New Haven police detectives stemming from the "Great Cocaine Bust" by the New Haven police last August. What detectives said was cocaine over $100,000 in value turned out to be quinine, and the arrested parties are suing with the claim that the material was planted by a police informer.

Drugs and Perjury

Williams did not talk about the specific suits in which he is involved, but he made it clear that support of drug informers is not just a question of a few individual policemen or police departments, but a widespread practice in America.

According to Williams, police often commit perjury in order to get convictions. He mentioned that in November 1968 three separate arrest warrants were filed in 6th circuit court. All "alleged that the detectives were at the same precise moment at three different locations in the city of New Haven meeting with their known and reliable informants and conducting undercover investigations."

The case was called to the attention of the State Legislature and various judges, but nothing was ever done about it.

A number of policemen were in the audience, and one of them tape-recorded the meeting.

Meeting On Prison Reform

Members of the Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions meet on January 17 To discuss prison conditions and reform. (M-T photo by A. Kay.)

City Employees Reject Contract Offer

Modern Times Staff

On January 11, city employees of Local 884, American Federation of State and Municipal Employees, rejected a contract offer with the city of New Haven. In an interview with **Modern Times** Dominick Lucenti, Union Representative of Council Four (AFSCME) explained why the union rejected the offer and what the union wants.

The main reasons he gave were lack of an adequate pension plan, employment and seniority rights and inequities in pay. The specific grievances around the pension plan are now being negotiated and cannot be discussed publicly.

Local 884 hopes to equalize the benefits of all city employees in all areas of city employment. Currently some groups of employees are receiving smaller vacations, less longevity pay and smaller salaries than other city employees doing comparable work.

Pay Inequalities

Pay inequities are so great that some people are earning $40 a week less than others in the same job classification.

Local 884 is also demanding that qualified city employees be given first chance over outside people at higher job positions; and employees whose jobs are abolished be placed in vacant job positions, rather than being fired as now occurs.

The members of the local solidly rejected the city's contract offer because it did not include any of these benefits. The old contract expired June 30, 1971 but work has continued since then without a new one.

Workers in Local 884 include switchboard operators, clerks, tax appraisers, street crossing guards, technicians, plumbers assistants, employees of the parks department and health department, incinerator workers and many others.

Hospital Retroactive Pay In Doubt

by Concerned Hospital Workers
From Hospital Workers Newsletter

A delegation from the Concerned Hospital Workers, met with an Internal Revenue Service representative on Thursday, January 13, to attempt to determine whether retroactive pay increases can be obtained for all YNHH workers.

Wage increases of $8 to $12 a week were promised in July, to become effective October 4. Because of Nixon's 90-day wage freeze, the raises were delayed until November 15. President Nixon did sign the bill allowing retroactive pay raises promised during the freeze, but the IRS representative did not make it clear what effect this would have on us.

We have to admit that since we have no union contract with the hospital administration, they have no legal obligation to make the increase retroactive to October 4. We feel there is a moral obligation, however, because of Mr. Womer's letter in July and because of the relatively low pay of hospital workers.

The Internal Revenue Service representative referred us to higher authorities in Hartford, and we will be pursuing our request for back pay with them. In the mean time, we are also sending a letter to the hospital Board of Directors asking them if they could make the raise retroactive.

Hospital workers lost a total of $48 to $72 each, between October 4 and November 15. This may not be much for the rich, but for working people it could mean the difference between meeting the rising monthly bills and not.

If the hospital is having a financial problem, that is no reason why hospital workers should have to bear the burden. If there is money for a runaway laundry, for installing Central Tray Service, and for hospital expansion, then there is money for retroactive pay.

A delegation from the Concerned Hospital Workers meets in front of the Internal Revenue Service office before entering to question a revenue agent about obtaining retroactive pay. l to r: Ms. McCoy, Ms. Myerick, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Benenson, & Ms. Toles.

Occupational Health Projects Meet To Discuss Job Safety

by Sharon Bonney
Medical Student

Worker and student members of the Occupational Health Project in New Haven met with project personnel from other urban centers in Connecticut and Massachusetts on Sunday, January 16 in Harkness Medical Dormitory at Yale University.

The Occupational Health Project (OHP) is a voluntary group seeking to *help workers guarantee their rights under* the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970. The New Haven OHP is sponsored by the Connecticut Citizens Action Group, Medical Committee for Human Rights, Environmental Action Group, and includes Yale medical and law students, public health students and the New Haven Department of Health.

At the Jan. 16 meeting, high school students from New Haven, East Haven and West Hartford, and students from The University of New Haven and Yale shared their experiences and ideas on ways to force local companies to improve inadequate working conditions. Plans were made for an investigation of the system for reporting on-the-job deaths in several Connecticut urban centers. According to OHP coordinator Michael Charney the new law makes it an act of criminal negligence to willfully maintain hazardous working conditions which result in death, injury, or illness.

Boston Program

The meeting included a presentation by John Mendeloff of the Urban Planning Aids who is working on an Industrial Health and Safety Project. The Boston program as described by Mendeloff includes:

-distributing questionaires to workers at specific plants in order to obtain information about working conditions there. This information is then used to spotlight inadequate health and safety conditions and can lead to their correction.

–through local union committees, setting up in-plant reporting systems for hazards and accidents. Such systems are designed to speed up the filing of complaints with the company and when necessary with the Department of Labor.

-carrying out programs to detect certain occupational diseases (for example, lung function tests for workers exposed to asbestos), being prepared to help workers take legal action when evidence of occupational disease is detected.

-helping unions to draft clauses on occupational health and safety for inclusion in contract negotiations.

According to Mendeloff, the Boston group has a noise meter which could be used at the request of unions to determine dangerous noise levels in work areas

Persons who are interested in working on the Occupational Health Project or who have information on hazards in the New Haven area should contact Michael Charney at 777-5388. *There will also be sessions on occupational health at the Medical Committee for Human Rights convention at the Yale Medical School on February 18 and 19.*

Mike Holodnak, *Modern Times* columnist, will speak on "Why I Hate to Pay Taxes" on Wednesday, February 2, 7 p.m. on public television. In New Haven the channel is 71 UHF and in Bridgeport it is 49 UHF.

Labor Notes

YNFAC KEEPS UNION DRIVE GOING

The Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee is continuing its organizing drive despite a loss in a National Labor Relations Board election last November. YNFAC reports that Yale employees have been meeting with the Yale administration in the past three weeks to discuss communications, compensation, grievances — the conditions with which they work daily. The mood of the meetings is one of impatience with the problems and eagerness on the part of the Yale employees to have their problems dealt with.

The recent YNFAC campaign has heightened this dialogue on the Yale campus. Many employees say now that they will wait and see what the Yale administration does. YNFAC contends that Yale *may* alleviate some grievances but won't provide what employees need the most — a collective voice with effective bargaining power!

REPORT FROM LODGE 609

International Association of Machinists, Lodge 609, (representing workers at Olin in New Haven) reports in its January newsletter **(609 News)** that preparations for upcoming negotiations are underway. A three year contract with Olin expires this July. The newsletter asks for 100% union member participation in the negotiations. "Stewards meetings are underway, as your representative he or she will be bringing all suggested language changes proposed by you the member. The strength of any UNION lies in its members — no one else."

In an editorial in that same newsletter the union attacked Nixon's economic policies. "The more phase II of the new Nixon economic program developes, the more union workers are convinced, despite all the confusion, that they have been cast in the role of the fall guy. Union members seem convinced that while inflation may be slowed down as Nixon claims, it is the worker who is paying the price."

IAM Strikers Supported

The Rank and File Defense Committee in Bridgeport has initiated a boycott of Westinghouse products in support of a ten month strike of workers at the Davis-Standard Company in Pawcatuck, Conn.

Davis-Standard's biggest customer is Westinghouse, for whom they make machines. The 180 strikers at Davis-Standard are members of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 646. They have been on strike since March 15, 1971.

This small local is struggling for its life and justice against the power of a large corporation with twenty plants. As the old contract ran out, the company stopped negotiating. Management demanded removal of the job classification setup (although the work has not changed), the end of seniority protection, and job speedup.

The union could not agree to such an unjust contract in which long-accepted working conditions were just swept aside. As one machinist put it, "If I can't go in there and stand up like a man, I won't go in."

Further, the company has shipped the struck plant's work off to another of their plants where they threatened the workers with layoffs if they refused to handle scab work.

The "Nixonized" National Labor Relations Board has not ruled that the company must submit to binding arbitration and is cooperating with this illegal activity.

Because Westinghouse is Davis-Standard's biggest customer, the Rank and File Defense Committee has said, "If you want justice for working people, tell Westinghouse you will boycott their products until they cease cooperating with an unfair company, or the strike is fairly settled."

Counseling at Women's Center

A volunteer with a smile at the Women's Center at 198 Elm St, where free personal counseling is available to any woman in need. Aware that many women today are depressed, angry, restless, isolated or simply lonely, several women trained in counseling will be available every Friday from 9am to 3pm. Women interested should drop in. Weekly appointments can be arranged. Information regarding welfare, housing, food stamps, daycare, consciousness raising groups, etc. are also available. (M-T photo by G. Frankel.)

Teachers Gain Insight From Education Films

by a New Haven Teacher

What are English schools like? New Haven teachers recently had the opportunity to find out when the Teacher Center presented ten films in the "Discovery and Experience" series on British Elementary schools.

Most of the films had to do with "how" many English elementary schools are run. Several important points were stressed. They were:

1. the surrounding environment is continually used.

2. each child goes at his or her own pace according to his or her capacity;

3. an activity is always linked to the child's own interest;

4. it is a child's nature to be active;

5. when a child is happily occupied, questions of discipline never arise;

6. it is very important to provide children with good materials.

In the movies themselves, the viewer saw a large classroom --usually divided into several compartments, and sometimes comprised of more than one room-- filled with 38-40 industrious, involved children.

Two things captured my attention immediately. The first was the proliferation of materials, instruments, resources, artifacts of every imaginable kind. It seemed literally impossible that a child could not find something that would be of interest. The second thing was the absence of noise and talking. Perhaps the children were subdued by the cameras, the headmistress, or British reserve. Whatever the reason, these children were absolute zombies compared to your typical American classroom.

One Thing Leads to Another

These early education schools don't seem to teach "subjects" such as reading or math. Everything is impressively integrated. Take, for example, a fourth grade class: One girl who was quite taken with horses was led to the idea of drawing horses to scale (math) and making a chart of the various types of horses in the world (reading, art), and then tracing the geneology of the horse (history, anthropology, geography). Said her teacher, "To the child, one thing leads to another; whereas adults tend to put learning into compartments."

Another child, whose interest was space, was making planets to scale A group of boys were making a graph of creatures they had found in a neighbor's pond. Two girls were putting their love of travel into studying maps, turning miles into kilometers and making change in foreign currency. A few boys and girls whose interest was drama were building a replica of the Globe Theatre. Another two boys who liked to swim were being helped to figure out why objects were lighter in the water than out of it. Does this begin to give you an idea of how many resources and materials must be available to run this sort of classroom, and why they must be of first quality?

Our Own Music

One of the more interesting movies was on music. A visitor to the class commented, "You seem to be absolutely surrounded by instruments of all kinds." Indeed, they were. Each child picked up some kind of music maker and experimented freely. Some would drift together intrigued by their mutual sounds, and soon a band would form. None of these children could read music. And they don't start off with something they know because that would only frustrate them. After all, a known composition is already composed, is it not? What is left to do with it but memorize it?

It is impossible to judge all of British elementary education by these movies. I personally feel that a child's success on a project deserves more than a mere 'well done" which seemed to be the only congratulations indulged in by the English teachers. My American ears grated when they heard the brisk accents of a teacher of foreign-born five-year olds ask one, "Are you clever enough to read this word?" After a two-second pause, and without batting an eye, she answered for the child, "Nooo?" and smoothly moved on to the next student.

Movies Stressed 3 Things

What these movies are trying to stress, I believe, is that the emphasis of education upon three essential processes. They are:

thinking through a problem, as opposed to the general practice in the States of giving a pre-answered problem, and then memorizing the answers (for tests); *creating new forms and ideas*, rather than, as in most of our public schools, setting up tools and pointing out what should be made from them; and *independence with responsibility for that independence,* instead of forcing many rules and regulations on children as is done here. What happens in the U.S. then is that control and discipline are imposed from the outside rather than integrated voluntarily because they are important to one's self-respect.

Allowing for culturaldifferences, the British open class system has much to offer America.

Defend Citizen Participation

Aldermen Plead For City Needs

by Dan Fendel
Modern Times Staff

New Haven's reform democrats have sent a letter to Congressional representatives, warning against three bills now in Congress which would eliminate the Model Cities concept of citizen participation in the spending of federal aid to cities.

The bills, sponsored by the Nixon Administration, are called the Urban Community Development Revenue Sharing Act. In its letter to Senators Ribicoff and Weiker and Congressman Giaimo, the group agreed that "there should be a massive attack on the problems of urban community development."

But, the letter added, "we ask that these bills be amended to allow at least the level of citizen participation built into the Model Cities program."

In an interview, Alderman James O. Jones, one of the signers, explained, "this has to be seen as part of the Nixon administration's whole concept of revenue sharing." The administration record shows, he said, that it doesn't want people having a say in how to spend money to help their own communities.

No Rapport - No Trust

Jones also criticized the operation of the Model Cities program in New Haven. "The public hearings brought out the fact that the City Demonstration Agency did not understand the concept of Model Cities. The hearings showed that *the Director of Model Cities did not* have rapport with the community. The trust was not there."

He added that "if people thought they could get their ideas heard," there would be more participation in the program.

So far only Senator Ribicoff has replied to the group's letter. His office wrote that they were looking into the situation.

Management Firm Milks Co-op Housing Houses

by Linda Garson
Modern Times Staff

"What people don't know is that the management firm is not their landlord. The management works for them, and if they (tenants) aren't satisfied, they can fire management."

Herbie Johnston, Director of the Dwight Community Center, was discussing the possibility that tenants in the six Dwight housing co-ops are being deprived of their rights by management firms who control co-op business.

Dwight Concerned Citizens has been meeting with co-op boards to clarify the rights of co-op dwellers and encourage the application for Federal funds to train community-based managers.

The co-ops include Dwight co-op on Edgewood, Trade Union Plaza on George Street, Ethan Gardens on Orchard, Harmony House on Scranton, and not yet opened Antillean Manor.

Co-op members (tenants) elect a board of directors that deals with hiring management firms to cover business concerns such as maintenance of buildings and taxes. Ripps-Calechman and Art Lewis are the two firms that handle business management for the co-ops, and they are required to have board permission before taking any action or setting any policy. Yet, Art Lewis raised the rent at Harmony House co-op before the tenants moved in, without approval from the board of the co-op.

"We have to get people out from under the yoke of managers who are taking their money," Johnston stated emphatically. "We also have to regain control of our community's land. In this town, land is power. The Federal government is not going to provide services forever. The black community has to have power to provide its own services."

CCDQE Hosts School Comm.

by Renee Poirier
Modern Times Staff

On Thursday night January 21, a meeting of the City Wide Commitee on School Community Councils was held at the office of CCDQE (Citizens Committee to Develop Quality Education) at 75 Admiral St. The City-Wide Committee is an informal group of School-Community Council Members, who get together because of a feeling of isolation from other councils. It is co-chaired by the Rev. Robert Forsberg (Winchester) and Doretha Mitchell (Columbus).

At the meetings representatives from various parts of the city attempt to deal with the problems that are common to all. The group originates proposals to be discussed in individual school community councils of participating schools.

A major concern discussed by the group is the fact that some schools in the city do not have councils. The group discussed ways in which it might aid in getting members of the community interested in starting such councils.

On Saturday, March 4, the Committee is planning a workshop to deal with the upcoming school budget. It will be open to all interested members of school communities. For more information contact CCDQE at 777-4497.

New Welfare Changes Add To Chaos

by Beverly Gouaux
Modern Times Staff

If you are a client or a friend you may find yourself calling the Welfare Department 20 or 30 times before you finally hear the tired voice on the other end of the line. The department is in incredible chaos due to shifts in personnel and job duties.

The theory behind the changes was essentially a good one. A separation of financial duties from treatment and social services would free the worker from budget-keeping (which can be done by aides) and allow him or her to deal more directly and freely with clients. Welfare would thus gradually come to be treated more like social security.

The exact opposite is, of course, what has happened. The client, in the new system, has lost almost all personal contact with the worker. She is now part of a large alphabetized pool. No specific worker is assigned to her case. No home visits are made to ascertain her needs. If there is a critical social need -- mental health child care, etc. -- the client herself must make the 20-30 calls to get some attention. Even then, it is never guaranteed that there will be any sort of action taken.

Welfare workers are as bad off in the new system as their clients. The majority have been assigned to income maintenance and now spend their days doing very routine mechanical work. No field days, which at least in former times meant some face to face contact with the people they were trying to help. Now the few social service workers left are terribly over-burdened and must often handle two or three times the number of seriously disturbed and chaotic families. Because of the freeze there is simply not enough staff to do any of the necessary chores, let alone take care of the real needs for social work.

We all know what Welfare Commissioner Henry White thinks of social workers: they are totally irrelevant. Workers in the area of social services now fear the day when they will have to justify their work. Child abuse, emotional problems, homemaking. and budget problems, these things (according to White) do not require services: only jails and mental institutions (at greater state expense!).

Morale has never been lower. Those who can quit, do, and go on compensation if necessary. Those who remain do so out of desperation. Administratively, people have been bullied and shifted arbitrarily, confirming their suspicions that they are thought of as nonpersons. How can a worker find any real meaning for himself if he works only on budget or is so over-burdened that the service contacts he makes are not really effective?

Fire Damages Welfare MOMS Store

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

On Wesnesday, Jan. 12, the Welfare MOMS Store, located at 238 Legion Ave., was ruined by fire. The fire started at 10 in the morning and caused extensive damage to the front of the store, destroying the walls, windows, and all the winter clothes that were for sale.

Matilda Gibbs, President of New Haven Welfare MOMS, explained that she had been at the store on the morning of the fire until about 20 minutes before 10. While she was there, three boys from Christian Community Action came by to drop off some boxes of clothing. She and the boys left together and twenty minutes later the store was in flames.

Some people have asserted that the fire started because the boxes the CCA boys brought in were placed too close to the gas stove. Tillie Gibbs does not believe this was the cause. "I have my own opinions about that. But I can't prove nothing, so I don't try."

To Ms. Gibbs the misfortune was a tragic one. She was one of the people who worked on setting up the store 2½ years ago. She said, "That store meant a lot to me, it was part of me. When it happened, I just didn't want to talk about it."

The store did a good business. The MOMS were not running it for profit. It was run completely by volunteers. The highest priced item of clothing was a man's suit which cost 50cents. They sold children's shoes for 5 and 10 cents, dresses for 25 cents, sweaters for 10 and 15 cents, a whole stack of books for a nickel, an entire set of dishes for 40 cents. They sold some small furniture also. If they got old lamps in, Tillie Gibbs would rewire them herself, and they would sell for 25 cents. Children's dressers went for about 75 cents. A lovely crib, costing 75 cents, also was destroyed by the fire.

The MOMS saw the need for the store. They realize that a poor person's dollar has to mean a lot. Tillie Gibbs said, "I'd feel right proud when a MOM came into the store and walked out with a big bag full of clothing for under a dollar."

More Bad Luck

The fire has not been the only bad luck the MOMS have had with the store. Over New Year's weekend there was a flood, which damaged quite a few of the clothes and most of the shelves and counters. They were in the process of remodeling the store, and fixing up the damage caused by the flood, when the fire happened.

Cynthia Sowinski, a woman from Woodbridge who has worked on the store with the MOMS, spoke to the fire marshall about repairs. He feels that the store can be fixed. The burnt walls will have to be scraped down to the beams, and new wall boards will have to be put up. The windows will have to be replaced New shelves and counters will be needed. The store will have to be rewired.

All this is going to take a lot of work and money. The landlord did not have the building insured because it is located in a high risk area. Ms. Gibbs said, "I'm gonna try with all my heart to raise the money we need to fix up the store. If anyone is able to give us any materials, or help us financially we will *be more than grateful."*

The New Haven Welfare MOMS store on Legion Ave. has been closed and boarded-up because of extensive fire damage. (M-T photo by V. Comisso.)

Unemployment Pay Rights Diminished

by Tom Doyle
Unemployed Worker

To the average American unemployment is no stranger. Most of us have experienced it at one time or another. The current unemployment in the state of Connecticut is at the highest level since the depression. The bloody past of American Labor has made such things as unemployment compensation possible.

Governor Meskill and the frightened bureaucrats are now making this right that working people fought so hard to a humiliating and degrading experience.

There is a systematic attempt on the part of so-called job counselors to pressure the unemployed to accept employment below levels they had achieved and in areas of work with which they are unfamiliar.

If you have been unemployed for any period of time, a month, two months, three months and walking the streets looking for a job that pays even as much as the unemployment compensation, you are told by the job counselor that this period of unemployment will reflect badly upon you; that employers will consider you a dope addict, a job hopper, an undesirable. He will tell you to take two jobs rather than remain on the unemployment rolls. Two jobs at $1.85 an hour, which is still less than the one job you lost.

Not having a job in this society is somewhat terrifying. You lose not only the weekly pay check but insurance, hospitalization benefits and all of the other fringe benefits that took so long for the working class to get. The compensation is little enough. The humiliation is unnecessary, shameful and illegal.

Coalition Pushes New Welfare Bill

by Jerry Cohen
Modern Times Staff

Concern about the inhumane level of welfare assistance and a desire to work with welfare recipients has prompted the New Haven Area Taxpayers Coalition for Welfare Reform to sponsor legislation proposals.

The coalition is presently drawing up a bill that will be presented to State Senator Anthony Ciarlone (New Haven -10th S.D.), chairman of the Committee on Welfare and Corrections. The bill will call for an adequate minimum level of support for families on welfare based on national non-farm poverty levels, adjusted to a cost of living index. In New Haven this would mean a minimum of $4500 annual flat grant cash allotment. The present allotment is $3600 for a family of four.

Plans for the bill were formulated as a result of a recent meeting the Coalition had with four area legislators. They met to discuss ways to influence welfare legislation. The four, Reps. Ciarlone, DeMayo, Lowe and Griswold, indicated that a lot of pressure has to be put on individual legislators by many segments of the population.

They conceded that the only effective way this can be done is by going out into the suburbs and talking to people who are either unaware of the true facts of welfare or don't recognize welfare as something that affects them. As one legislator put it, "if these people can be mobilized to contact their legislators, then there might be a chance to pass some progressive legislation. Legislators will respond to pressure."

Irmgard Wessel, a social worker and member of the coalition, informed **Modern Times** that the coalition has formulated two areas to concentrate their efforts: legislation and education. She explained that, "We have to give strength to the Welfare MOMS, its important they know they're not in this alone. Their struggle is our struggle."

G&O Strike Forces Ready

Continued from page 1

Members of the negotiating committee include Rogers, Ralph DePino (treasurer), Mike Rubis (Vice–President), William Baker, John Julianelle, Frank Ciaffone, Caesar Morris, and Louis Scasino.

The union is also asking for five days sick leave and two more paid holidays (including Martin Luther King's birthday). They are also asking for a schedule of severance pay based on seniority if the company moves out of town. (G. & O. is a subsidiary of Allen Electric which has plants all around the country, including a large plant in Jackson, Mississippi, which does not yet have a union.

"We want job posting and bidding at the company," Rogers added. "This would eliminate anything in the way of racial discrimination. We're also asking for the Community Health Center Plan which was set up specially for unions."

The G. & O. Company was originally set up by two New Haveners, Gargiulo and Oppi , but was sold several years ago and ended up in the hands of the large corporation of Allen Electric. There are two plants in New Haven, 138 Winchester Ave. and 424 Grand Ave., and one plant in Wallingford.

Editorial

Public Employee Strikes

Most working people approve of strikes in private industry. They realize that the workers only power on the job is the power not to work. And they know that the employers usually have plenty of profits to satisfy most demands.

Strikes by public employees, however, are seen in a different light. After all it's not a question of slicing off a section of the profits, but of raising taxes. And public employee strikes are not only means of pressure against politicians but serious inconveniences to the public.

But tax money, except for that used to pay the wages of public employees mostly ends up as corporate profits or benefits for the rich.

Public employees are then not so different from private employees. If public employees get higher wages and benefits while taxes on working people are not increased -- the money must come from corporate profits.

What should be done? Force public employees to take what they're given? Then a huge and growing sector of working people is forced to beg for crumbs at the table of the politicians and the bureaucrats.

What about binding arbitration? Couldn't we just submit all disputes to an impartial board which would arrive at a fair settlement? But the tricky word here is "fair". The lawyers picked to serve on these boards almost always consider the politicians' own estimates of what they can spend on employees as the complete picture. Would one of these fairminded arbitrators ever say, "Now this New Haven Colisium is a sheer extravagance. You should give your policemen a raise instead." Don't hold your breath. These arbitrators can also be relied on to turn down most any union proposal that might give workers more say on the job. To these men only pay and fringe benefits are negotiable. The rest is "management's rights".

The best solution to this problem is to take away the power to decide pay and working conditions from the politicians and give it to the public employees and the people of the city. And do this with "private" employees too. For in the end there is no real distinction between them. They all do work for the public.

Let workers in cooperation with the rest of the nation set goals for their school, factory or office. Then at their job let the workers decide together how best to achieve those goals.

Until that time, however, public employees should have the legal right to strike - as all other workers.

Tribute To King

January 15 is Martin Luther King's birthday. It was celebrated throughout America. We on **Modern Times** give tribute to Dr. King.

Martin Luther King was killed when he had united the issues of racism, opposition to the war in Vietnam, and the rights of labor. He had lead the civil rights movement, came out strongly against the war in Vietnam, and was playing a leading role in the Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike with black and white workers together.

We on **Modern Times** celebrate Dr. Martin Luther Kings' birthday as we celebrate the possibility of a united movement of black and white, young and old, and male and female working people. We believe as Dr. King did that it is only by uniting our numbers at the bottom that we can make America a land of opportunity for all people.

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MODERN TIMES is a non-profit volunteer labor publication of the American Independent Movement

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.
We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.
The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent helath care and decent jobs.

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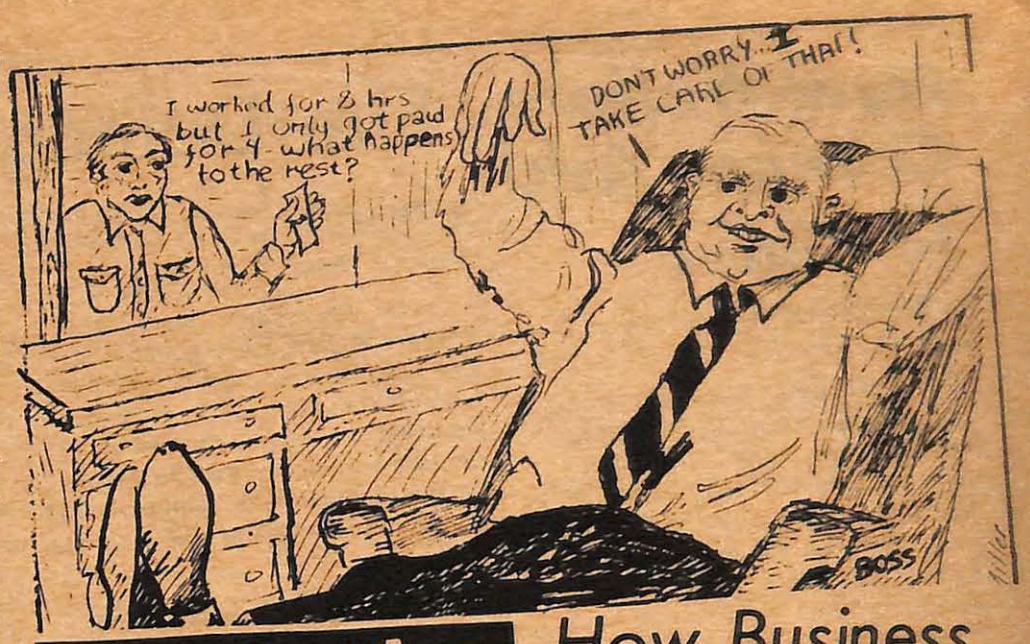

Introduction to Socialism

How Business Profits From Labor's Value

The ABC of Socialism
by Leo Huberman

What is socialism? What do socialists really believe? What's it got to do with America, with New Haven, with the here and now? In answer to questions like these from our readers, **Modern Times** *decided to publish a series of articles from Leo Huberman's famous pamphlet,* **The ABC of Socialism.** *The following is the third in the series.*

In a capitalist society, man does not produce things which he wants to satisfy his own needs, he produces things to sell to others. Where formerly people produced *goods for their own use,* today they produce *commodities for the market.*

The capitalist system is concerned with the production and exchange of commodities.

The worker does not own the means of production. He can make his living in only one way--by hiring himself out for wages to those who do. He goes to market with a commodity for sale--his capacity to work, his labor power. That's what the employer buys from him. That's what the employer pays him wages for. The worker sells his commodity, labor power, to the boss in return for wages.

How much wages will he get? What is it that determines the rate of his wages?

The key to the answer is found in the fact that what the worker has to sell is a commodity. The value of his labor power is equal to the food, clothing, and shelter necessary for him to live (and since the supply of labor must continue, to raise a family).

In other words, if the owner of a factory mill, or mine wants forty hours of labor done, he must pay the man who is to do the work enough to live on, and to bring up children capable of taking his place when he gets too old to work, or dies.

Workers will get then, in return for their labor power, subsistence wages, with enough more (in some countries) to enable them to buy a TV, or a car, or a ticket to the movies occasionally.

Does this economic law that workers' wages will tend to be merely subsistence wages mean that political and trade union action by workers is useless? No, it definitely does not. On the contrary, workers, through their unions, have been able in some countries including the United States, to raise wages above the minimum subsistence level. And the important point to remember is that this is the *only* way open to workers to keep that economic law from operating all the time.

Where does profit come from?

It is not in the process of buying and selling commodities but rather in the process of production that we will find the answer. The profits that go to the capitalist class arise out of production.

The workers by transforming raw material into the finished article have brought new wealth into existence, have created a new value. The difference between what the worker is paid in wages and the amount of value he has added to the raw material is what the employer keeps.

That's where his profit comes from.

When a worker hires himself out to an *employer he doesn't sell him what he* produces (The worker sells his ability) produce.

Surplus Value

The employer does not pay the worker for the product of eight hours work; the employer pays him to work eight hours.

The worker sells his labor power for the length of the whole working day--say eight hours. Now suppose the time necessary to produce the value of the worker's wages is four hours. He doesn't stop working then go home. Oh, no. He has been hired to work eight hours. So he continues to work the other four hours. In these four hours, he is working *not for himself,* but *for his employer.* Part of his labor is *paid* part is *unpaid* labor. The employer's profit comes from the unpaid labor.

There *must* be a difference between what the worker is paid and the value of what he produces, else the employer wouldn't hire him. The difference between what the worker receives in wages and the value of the commodity he produces is called *surplus value.*

Surplus value is the profit that goes to the employer. He buys labor power at one price and sells the product of labor at a higher price. The difference--surplus value--he keeps for himself.

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Write On

Indian Military

To the Editors:

I liked Rick Wolff's article (World Affairs, Jan. 1 Modern Times), but I thought he missed something important. He said Washington couldn't count on India for any real support against China, but we all remember that the Indian Army attacked China and fought a short actual war on the Ladakh frontier.

I think what is wrong is that one must make a distinction and realize that the Indian generals are not well controlled by the Indian government, which shouldn't be too shocking to Americans, because ours aren't either. The Indian military chiefs would like to hire their hungry, unemployed young men out to the U.S. to do what American boys won't do any more.

Remember the Kennedy assassination(s), etc.? A lot of people think it was because JFK overruled the military on Cuba and was going to do it on Vietnam. This helps us understand India.

Fraternally,
Steve Jacoby

Big Freeze Squeeze For Small Unions

by John Wilhelm

Business Agent, Local 217, Hotel & Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Union

What happens, under Nixon's wage controls, to the millions of Americans who are not lucky enough to be members of one of the big, relatively powerful national unions?

Those of us who are active in small unions, representing workers in small shops, have been worried about this since the first announcement of this outrageous scheme to hold down wages and increase big business profits. Unorganized workers have even more cause to worry.

People who are members of big, relatively strong national unions have, in some well-publicized cases, been able to get through contracts bigger than the supposed 5.5% "guideline." That's simply an attempt by the Nixon administration to buy off the big unions, because they alone have the power to wreck this rotten, unfair wage freeze. Only time will tell if this buy-off attempt will work.

Meantime, what happens to the great majority of us, the millions of Americans who are not represented by big national unions?

The outlook for unorganized workers is totally bleak, until and unless they organize. Even more than before, employers are not going to give increases unless they are forced to.

For little unions, the picture in general isn't much better -- in most cases outside the building trades, we have enough trouble fighting the boss. Now we have to fight the boss and the U.S. Government too, and it looks like we may have to knuckle under to the 5.5% in too many cases.

However, there is a bright spot or two. There seem to be two exceptions in the wage control law as it stands today (if it'll still be that way tomorrow, who can say?). Both, it should be noted, come from Congress, where organized labor has some lobbying strength, and not from the Nixon administration.

One amendment exempts most employer contributions to pension plans and group insurance (life, medical, etc.) from the controls. This means that you are not limited under the law to 5.5% on these benefits, as you supposedly are on wages, vacations, holidays, and most other forms of compensation.

This could be extremely important -- perhaps even a silver lining in this cloud of gloom -- since most small unions tend to have lousy insurance and pension programs. This could be a chance to beef up these benefits, which are especially important as medical and burial costs skyrocket and as retired people are squeezed even more than the rest of us by the still-climbing cost of living (where are Nixon's price controls now?).

During the World War II wage controls, in fact, pension plans and insurance of all kinds first got going as widespread negotiated fringe benefits, because they were exempted then, too, and the big industrial unions seized the chance.

Second, although the all-important final level isn't clear yet, Congress has directed the Cost of Living Council to exempt the "working poor" from wage controls entirely.

Nixon wants the "working poor" to be defined as those making $1.90 an hour or less. That's poor, all right ---- $3800 a year for full-time work. Rep. William F. Ryan, Democrat from New York City, who sponsored the amendment, says the intent of Congress was to exclude everybody making less than the U.S. Dept. of Labor says you need to live decently -- $6900 a year for an average urban family of four, or about $3.35 an hour.

Where this level is finally pegged -- and the decision by the Cost of Living Council and the Pay Board could come any time -- is extremely important. If it's set at some half-way reasonable approximation of what it means to be the "working poor", this could be an exception with real benefits for millions of organized but low-paid workers.

A lot will depend on how much pressure the AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers, and the Teamsters can or will exert on behalf of small unions and the unorganized.

AFL-CIO President George Meany told the recent AFL-CIO convention of attempts to buy off the big unions: "All the big unions are going to be taken care of," Meany said Nixon "hatchetman" Arnold Weber told the Pay Board, "all the big unions that have the big contracts."

Meany also told the convention delegates, "While there are hundreds of thousands of people who are parties to large contracts, represented by large unions, there are millions of people who work in small shops of 100, 200, or 300 people. As far as the AFL-CIO is concerned, they are all equal. There is no difference as far as we are concerned.

Let's hope the AFL-CIO keeps that pledge.

Open Line Bridgeport Labor League

by Mike F. Holodnak

Technological progress is irreversible. The nature of the creature, being bigness, makes monopolies and the death of free enterprise inevitable. In fact, free enterprise today is already pretty much of a myth, and when the few remaining corner grocers and small businesses get gobbled up, the myth will become obvious to everyone.

It is then that organized labor will be forced to confront the real issues such as who will own and control such a vast all-encompassing technology?

This is why it is so heartening to see so many rank-and-file organizations springing up in the labor movement all over the country. This is true especially among the young people, who are realizing that labor cannot operate in a vacuum, and are viewing the problems of labor in context with the problems of the community.

A case in point is the Young Unionists Action League (YUAL)that has only recently come into being here in Bridgeport. Their Recording Secretary, John J. DelVecchio, who is currently a student at the University of Connecticut, and who had been a member of Local 5623, United Steelworkers, and editor of "Foundry News" at Jenkins Valve Company, says that, presently they have about 25 members but are launching an all-out membership drive in the hope of having about 100 members with in a few months. Special recruitment programs will take place in Hartford and later in Bridgeport, New Haven and possibly other cities.

Some of YUAL's past and planned activities include: Strike Aid for Local 646, Machinists, in Pawcatuck (food and money was collected for the strikers); picket assistance to the Clothing Workers Union for the Van Heusen boycott; participation in the State Labor Convention and the Imports Conference; speakers against state college tuition at legislative hearings in Hartford; and a program by the Workers Defense League on their pre-apprenticeship program for minority group youths.

Membership in YUAL is open to all union members regardless of age, although most members tend to be in their 20's. Unions represented include Steelworkers, Electrical Workers, Machinists, Utility Workers, Textile Workers, Hotel & Restaurant Employees, Teachers, Musicians, Pottery and Hospital Workers. Exceptions are made for YUAL members who are in temporary non-union status, such as unemployed, military, or student.

As yet YUAL has not adopted any political philosophy as a group. The membership ranges in feeling from conservative to leftist.

With the exception of their stand against imports, which in my opinion doesn't seem to be a positive action because it doesn't deal realistically with multi-national corporations and international union solidarity, their programs are on the whole progressive.

From all appearnaces the trend in labor throughhout the country is moving away from the narrow path that the George Meanys have been treading for the past too damned many years. It is moving toward a much broader, relevant and realistic outlook.

What Kids Can Learn About Strikes

How do you explain to a 10-year-old why her or his teacher has gone out on strike?

For Marcella Crann, a classroom teacher here for the past 12 years, the answer was to simulate a collective-bargaining situation in class, where she became "management" and the students were the "bargaining unit."

And, although the students didn't strike, they did experience the frustration of not being listened to by the other side at the bargaining table, and they threatened to stop singing in a music class unless their demands were met.

The lesson resulted in a written and signed agreement between teacher and pupils over the question of making up a lost gym class. The class, incidentally, had been lost because school had been closed by a teachers' strike.

The Lesson Plan

Two concerns--one immediate and one long-range--motivated the collective-bargaining lesson, Crann said.

One was the week-long strike of teachers called last fall. "The strike," she explained, "was a firsthand experience that gave some realism to the children's experiment."

The other--and, in the long run, more important--motivation was Crann's desire to see labor history and union issues added to the curriculum--from kindergarten through grade 12.

Besides her work as a classroom teacher here, she is also chairman of the education committee of the AFL-CIO council.

"For 12 years as a teacher, I've found little if any material on labor history or the purposes and practices of unions either in textbooks or other classroom materials," she said. "It's of prime concern to me that we get into the curriculum a developmental program in labor history, philosophy, and so on."

When the strike ended, she decided to adapt the lesson plan to her fifth-grade students, most of whom are 10 years old.

Crann set out to help the students discover their answers to three questions, which she put on the blackboard at the beginning of the lesson: 1) Should your teacher strike? Why or why not? 2) Why did the teachers strike? and 3) Define strike, collective bargaining, public employee,and binding contract.

Crann then moved to set up a situation in the classroom over an issue about which the students felt strongly. In this case, it was the right to make up a gym period.

Students met in a caucus, set up a bargaining team, and summoned Crann to the table, only to be told by her that "the matter is settled. There's no need to talk." The students, she said, would have a music class--no gym. As the teacher--or "management" in this case -- she said she had the right to make that ruling.

Finally, though, she agreed to talk. Mimicking the patronizing manner of an administrator, she said, "Well, I guess there isn't any harm in listening to what you have to say."

At first, the two sides got nowhere. Then, in a caucus, the students, out of the teacher's earshot, decided in favor of "drastic action," as they put it, a term they probably picked up from the striking teachers during the week.

"We won't sing in music class," they declared.

At the same time, they put a compromise offer on the bargaining table--split the music class into half music and half gym, and thus satisfy both sides.

Crann accepted, and a written contract was prepared, voted on by the pupils, and signed by both sides.

Later, the session was followed up with further class discussion regarding the justifiability of strike issues in general.

Crann also explained that the students began to realize that their "feelings and their actions were similar, if not the same, as adults who find themselves in a strike situation."

Hospital Workers Worry About Bus Service Cut

by the Concerned Hospital Workers
from the Hospital Workers' Newsletter

The cuts in evening and Sunday bus service have hurt many Yale-New Haven Hospital workers and their families. Many of us have to pay for cabs or inconvenience others to get to and from work. And this is only the beginning. Mr. Gengras, the wealthy businessman who owns the bus company, has asked for cuts in early morning service and midday service, and for eliminating all service after 7:30 PM. And for fewer buses he wants a higher fare -- 40¢.

Mr. Gengras is not concerned about the working people who depend on the buses to get to and from work, nor is he concerned about the pollution and traffic problems more cars will bring to the city. Mr. Gengras is only concerned about one thing -- his profits. *Is it reasonable for one man's private fortunes to decide whether or not there will be bus service for thousands?*

We think that it is important to fight for decent bus service. By uniting together as hospital workers, we could make some of these demands:

1) We could demand that the city and state guarantee cheap, frequent bus service, by taking over the bus lines if necessary;

2) We could demand that the Yale-New Haven Hospital Board of Directors join us in fighting for adequate bus service; or

3) We could demand that Yale-New Haven either provide its own buses (as Yale University does) or else pay *cab fare for those of us who can't get to work otherwise.*

Every one of these demands is possible to win. The Hospital and the city depend on us to care for sick people. The least they could do is provide us cheap, efficient transportation to work and back. Any worker interested in fighting for better bus service should contact a member of the Concerned Hospital Workers or write to us at : C.H.W., Box C-3, 80 Knox St., West Haven, Ct. 06516

State Run Transit Needed Now

Continued from page 1

At the PUC hearings the fact came out that Connecticut Company owner E. Clayton Gengras had juggled the Connecticut Company books with a number of corporate shifts. He claimed this was done to prepare the Company for government takeover.

In order to qualify for public subsidies Gengras sold his profitable Charter Division.

A suggestion came from Gengras to keep the company making profits with State and Federal subsidies. With this plan, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would help the state buy new buses to be leased then to the company for a dollar a year.

FREE FOR ALL

For nine days citizens of Rome, Italy's largest city, enjoyed free rides on buses and trolleys in an experiment to induce commuters and city-dwellers to leave their cars at home to relieve traffic congestion. The fare is usually only 8¢, but during the free period 50% more passengers rode on public transportation, and there was a great improvement in traffic flow.

The Italian no-fare transit project is now a hot political issue: the unions want the no-fare continued and the businessmen and car dealers want the fare restored.

New Haveners have never been fortunate enough to have free bus transportation, but we still have the same controversy: will the people and unions who want better, cheaper transportation win out over Mr. Gengras and the Connecticut Company's attempt to cut service and raise prices?

UNO: Canal Line Hearing Unfair

Dorothy Stanford, Elbert Huckaby and Elbert Pegues discuss the proposed highway through their community at the United Newhallville office. Local residents have formed a coalition to stop the project and are calling for a boycott of all downtown businesses. The coalition claims that these downtown interests are the driving force behind the highway. There is no concern about local safety, but just profits. At stake is the security and integrity of every inner-city resident and the right to determine their own destiny. (Photo H. Black, The Black Coalition)

Subsidies for Corporations Are Welfare

by James Jones D27
Reprinted from the Black Coalition Weekly

Wednesday, January 12, 1972, the headlines of the Evening Register read: No Night Time Service - 377 Area Bus Runs May be Eliminated - Rate Hikes Also Before P.U.C. (Public Utilities Commission). This should stir the apethetic black minority and poor whites of Connecticut cities into some serious thinking, analysis, implementation, and action. If they do this, they will be able to visualize a number of ironic happenings.

Two words differently spelled, but having the same meanings are "SUBSIDY" and "WELFARE". When corporate giants or the wealthy seek help, it is called SUBSIDY, but when the poor seek help it is called WELFARE. It is quite tragic that America is becoming more and more separate and unequal. When welfare cuts were announced by a proud President Nixon and Governor Meskill, newspapers, radio and TV were full of talk by working people that they were tired of taking care of the lazy, shiftless, poor. "They must earn their keep". They agreed with the President and Governor of Conn. I wonder if they ever said, but for the grace of God, there go I?

Large farmers are paid "WELFARE" pardon me, SUBSIDY, for the rich not to grow food to keep prices at certain levels. Add to that Lockheed, the Railroads and SST and now the Conn. Bus Company. Ironic isn't it? Wake up you slumbering blacks and poor whites and see what is happening to you. Thenunite and deal with it.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

LOW AIR STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRY

If you work in a factory for a 40 hour week, you are covered by federal air standards which say it is okay if the air contains 5 ppm or less of sulfur oxides. However, once you step outside of the factory for the rest of the 168 hour week, the federal standards specify that the air must be below 0.040 ppm -- less than 1% of the level acceptable in factories. You do not have to be a mathematician to know know that the factory standards were designed more for the convenience of management than for a conscientious concern for health.

BUSTING THE HIGHWAY TRUST

On Tuesday, February 8, 10:30 A.M. a coalition of state anti-highway groups will meet at the state capitol building to attend a legislative finance committee meeting. The coalition will be lobbying to have the highway trust fund released into the general fund. If this were done 60% of Connecticut's public debt could be retired.

AIR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Copies of the Connecticut Air Implementation plan which outlines how Connecticut will conform to federal guidelines for air quality are in the public library for inspection. Unfortunately, the report is poorly organized and hard to comprehend even by those who have been following the "Air Scene". It is especially unclear who will have the authority to enforce the standards.

WOULD YOU TELL YOUR BEST FRIEND?

Smoking indoors can raise the concentrations of pollutants to levels unacceptable by federal standards. The blue haze of smoke is caused by particulates which can aggravate or cause respiratory disease. Smoking also generates carbon monoxide. (Ever have trouble concentrating in a smoky room?... or get headachy?)

But the hard question is -- do we tell our smoking friends that they are endangering us and themselves?

UI Lines up in Air?

By Dan Vapnek
Modern Times Staff

Should the United Illuminating Co. (UI) be allowed to string massive overhead power lines across the New Haven harbor? At a series of hearings before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) everyone, except of course, UI, said no. In December 1971, the PUC said yes. Apparently the courts will now also have a chance to have a say.

In a suit that has been filed by the Fair Haven Betterment Association, the City of New Haven, the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, Catherine Quinn, the Fair Haven Project Area Committee, and the New Haven Preservation Trust, the courts have been asked to overturn the PUC ruling. The power lines named in the suit would run from the UI plant to be constructed on the east shore of the harbor to the English St. sub-station on the Mill River at Grand Avenue.

Although the courts generally do not overturn administrative decisions, such as those made by the PUC, several developments over the past year could influence the court decision. These include the establishment of the Power Evaluation Council by the 1971 legislature. This Council was given jurisdiction over power lines and the placement of new power plants and is establishing conservation and environmental guidelines that must be met. In addition, in a recent case, HELCO vs. the Water Resources Commission, the court ruled that the PUC had gone beyond its jurisdiction when it approved overhead lines across the Connecticut River without consulting the Water Resources Commission.

Because of these recent developments, it is possible that the court could decide *not* to rule on the lines over the New Haven harbor and refer the decision to another state agency such as the Power Evaluation Council or the Department of Environmental Protection. A decision is expected in several weeks.

Review The Mythology Of Imperialism

by Harry Henderson
Modern Times Staff

The Mythology of Imperialism by John Raskin

Back in the days of Sputnik there was a very popular book called *Why Johnny Can't Read*. It explained how the American education system wasn't giving children the ABC's. But it didn't deal with a problem a little farther down the educational road, namely how American education in high school and college taught people how to ignore what they had read.

This is especially true of the teaching of great literature, which is great because it is drenched in the fullness of life. But life is very dangerous, and so the young reader of great literature was taught how to miss the life and see only the pattern of literary art.

John Raskin has written a book about some of the best British writers of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries in an attempt to give us back the ABC's of reading the books these men wrote as statements of people caught and struggling with the meaning of their lives in their times.

The book is called *The Mythology of Imperialism* and it deals with writers like Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad, E.M. Forster, George Orwell and Joyce Cary. Their works reflect the era in which the British Empire controlled much of South East Asia, what are now India, Pakistan and Bangla Desh, and large amounts of Africa, and extended its power throughout the world.

It is hard to resist seeing these writers as the products of imperialism, and yet the literary masters of education have not only resisted it, but forced their viewpoint down the throats of students in Introductory English classes for decades.

Conrad's greatest short novel, *Heart of Darkness*, for example, has been almost exclusively treated as a Freudian symbolist trip into the unconscious.

The novel is about the Belgian Congo, where ten million Africans died under King Leopold's rule. Raskin won't forget those ten million, and as he shows brilliantly, Conrad didn't forget them in *Heart of Darkness* either. Raskin brings it marvelously as a trip into the unconsciousness--but a trip into the unconscious of the imperialist mind, with its bizarre racist fantasies, its perverted sexuality and its greed which would not stop at the extermination of whole peoples to satisfy itself.

The Mythology of Imperialism doesn't just unteach the teachers who have tried to extract literature from history and wipe it off with antiseptic so it won't contaminate the nice safe imperialistic culture they live in. That would be an easy job, because the struggling life in great literature is very hard to kill.

So Raskin goes further, and as a scholar and critic who is also deeply committed and active in the struggle against American imperialism he tries with both compassion and judgment to show these writers as people forced to confront the workings of the Empire not only in their newspapers but in their imagination and art.

For they all had seen the dirty side of the Imperial coin up close, as sailors , policemen, or civil servants. Raskin, who writes in a pithy style without academic frills, gives them back to us. He begins with Kipling, who betrayed his understanding to become the poet laureate of the Empire.

Then there is Conrad, the Polish outsider who had fled the Russian Empire for the English, but who never gave in to the temptation to play toady to the prejudices of his new countrymen. And Forster, whose class allegiances prevented him from seeing how his cult of "personal relations" was made absurd by the imperialistic society which corrupted all relations. Raskin gives them back to us in a way which will make them hard to lose again.

War Wind-down Is Sham

by Leslie Craine
CPAC

The Nixon administration is trying to confuse the public about its Vietnam policy, and the New Haven Register is not helping the situation.

On the front page of the January 13 Register, the banner headline reads, "Nixon Speeds Withdrawal of Troops from Vietnam." Buried on page 39 of the same issue is a story entitled "New Condition Added for U.S. Withdrawal."

On the one hand the government is trying to convince the public that the war is almost over. On the other hand they are unable to hide certain facts which are gradually creeping into the back pages of the daily newspapers: the failure of "Vietnamization", the deteriorating military situation for the U.S. and Saigon, and the inflexibility of the U.S. negotiating position in Paris.

Yet it is the President's misleading statements that continue to be printed on page one and receive the most attention from the public.

In view of this propaganda offensive on the part of the administration, *the New Haven Peace Action Coalition met on January 12 to discuss in detail* the response of the local anti-war *movement.*

In the coming months a major task of the anti-war movement will be to reach millions of people with the truth. The National Peace Action Coalition is conducting an educational campaign around the theme, "The War is not Winding Down."

Feb. 2 Public Meeting

To initiate this educational campaign, the New Haven Peace Action Coalition is planning a public meeting for Wed., February 2, at the Trinity Church Parish House, 53 Wall Street, at 8pm. The program will include an informative slide show on the use of electronic warfare in Vietnam, and speakers from the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the labor movement, community groups and schools.

The meeting will then formulate specific plans for extending the educational campaign. Teach-ins are being planned for area high schools and colleges. In addition attempts will be made to hold anti-war forums with community groups and labor unions, stressing the effects of the war on the economy, the wage freeze, and other domestic problems. Extensive leafleting of factories and shopping centers and the distribution of the *NPAC pamphlet "Is the War Winding* Down" is another possible part of the campaign.

Three New Haven delegates to the national conference of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice will report back to the New Haven Committee on Monday, January 31. The meeting will be held at the Parish House of the United Church of Christ, 311 Temple St., at 8 PM.

The New Haven Committee for Peace and Justice has sponsored a New Year's Eve anti-war demonstration at the Post Office, several meetings on prison conditions and a speech by John Williams on January 20 entitled, "Police, Informers and the Community" **(see p.2).**

St Valentine's Day

One of the more popular theories on the origin of Valentine's Day centers on a priest, Valentinus, who lived in Rome in the third century. For giving aid and shelter to Christians being persecuted by the Roman government Valentinus was himself imprisoned. After a year of confinement he was brought before Emperor Claudius II whom he immediately tried to convert to Christianity. Claudius, amused by Valentinus' spunk, offered to free him if he would renounce his faith. Valentinus refused and so was sentenced to be clubbed, stoned and beheaded. A friendship grew between the jailer and his family, especially his blind daughter, and Valentinus. Legend has it that Valentinus helped restore her sight. On the eve of his death Valentinus sent his young friend a note of farewell and signed it "From your Valentine".

Valentinus was executed February 14, 270. The connection of his death with the holiday we celebrate today is not entirely clear. A possible explanation is the fact that on February 14 the ancient Romans used to feast in honor of their chief goddess, Juno Regino. During the celebration young men would draw lots on which were written the names of young women with whom they would share the evening's festivities.

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd,
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course untrim'd:
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wandr'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

-William Shakespeare

I felt warm friendship first for thee, My beauteous Valentine, And thought how happy I could be, Were thy true friendship mine. But, sweet one, on a second thought, My bosom sighs for more, Though rich the joys thy friendship brought, Love hath a richer store.

Snowplowers Face State Threat

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

Although the state's snowplow operators won a victory in November against a plan that would force them to be on standby 24 hours a day, their victory still is not complete. The state continues to threaten disciplinary action against the men who took part in a peaceful demonstration on November 1 and failed to heed standby orders on November 24.

The battle against rigid standby requirements has been going on almost two years now. On the one side the snowplow operators are represented (unofficially) by Council 16 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). On the other side are their bosses at the state Department of Transportation. Since state employees are forbidden by law to bargain collectively, AFSCME is not an official bargaining agent for the men.

At first the state demanded that all highway maintainers stand by for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from November 1 to April 15 without pay. The department would make one phone call to the worker's home and if he didn't respond within the hour, the department took disciplinary action which could include dismissal.

Pay Not Obligatory

According to an article in the *Advocate*, the official publication of Council 16, the union had worked out a compromise position a year ago which gave the men pay for standby, but did not make it obligatory. Then Governor Meskill was elected.

Meskill reneged on the promised agreement and did nothing about the situation.

Snowplow operators staged a demonstration on November 1, and when there was still no response, the union notified the state that they felt the standby requirement was illegal and that the men would not obey it.

The state still didn't respond. Then, on the evening before Thanksgiving, the snow came down, but the men didn't come in.

The state finally got the point. At a meeting on November 26 they told AFSCME, led by New England Director Mike Botelho, that the standby requirements were off.

Not only snowplow operators, but also all other state employees that have snow removal assignments are affected by the decision. There is no requirement for anyone to standby for possible call-in at any state agency or institution.

The fight is not over, however, since the state still threatens disciplinary action against some union members. But according to the *Advocate*, "the maintainers have vowed to view an action taken against any one maintainer as an action taken against them all and to react accordingly."

Quinnipiac Students Clash With Recruiters

Modern Times Staff

A shouting match ensued Thursday morning, January 20, when the Ad-Hoc Committee Against the Military countered the appearance of Navy recruiters at Quinnipiac College with alternative information.

At about 10:30 AM three Navy recruiters set up a table of literature in the Quinnipiac Student Union. Shortly afterwards about 100 students and faculty put in place their own table and passed out literature opposing the use of college facilities to recruit people to kill in Vietnam and elsewhere.

The Navy men claimed that the Navy was not involved in Vietnam, and that they were not in fact recruiting. They were merely giving out information. These claims seemed to be the center of the dispute.

Second Demonstration

The Navy demonstration followed one which took place last November against Marine recruiting on campus. Although no official action has been taken by Quinnipiac's administration against the November demonstrators, several faculty members were sent letters by President Leonard Kent and Vice President Anthony Moye.

The letters condemned the demonstrators and implied that the involved faculty would be put on probation. No hearing was held. Since then a meeting of the Liberal Arts Faculty overwhelmingly passed a motion insisting "that Vice President Moye and President Kent repudiate the letters" because of the lack of due process. They have refused.

A private meeting had been called for Thursday afternoon by President Kent to discuss the faculty motion. The demonstrators did not attend.

President Kent has spoken out against the war in Vietnam, but has been quoted *as finding acceptable recruiting by the armed forces on campus, just like any corporation.*

City Cafeteria Workers Win Back-Pay

The Union representing New Haven school cafeteria workers announced January 20 that the Connecticut State Board of Arbitration has awarded several cafeteria workers back pay and benefits going back to March 12, 1971.

John Wilhelm, Business Agent of Local 217, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, said "we are extremely happy that the arbitrators have thrown out a practice that amounts, quite simply, to chiseling and cheating on the contract by the New Haven Board of Education."

The Board of Education had hired at least seven, and possibly more, cafeteria workers, classified them as "permanent substitutes," and denied them their contract rate of pay and fringe benefits, and also refused to deduct their Union dues when the employees requested.

The arbitration award, signed by Board Chairman Harry B. Purcell, said, "The Panel admits to having a certain admiration for whoever created the title 'permanent substitute'. It must be a classic contradiction of terms."

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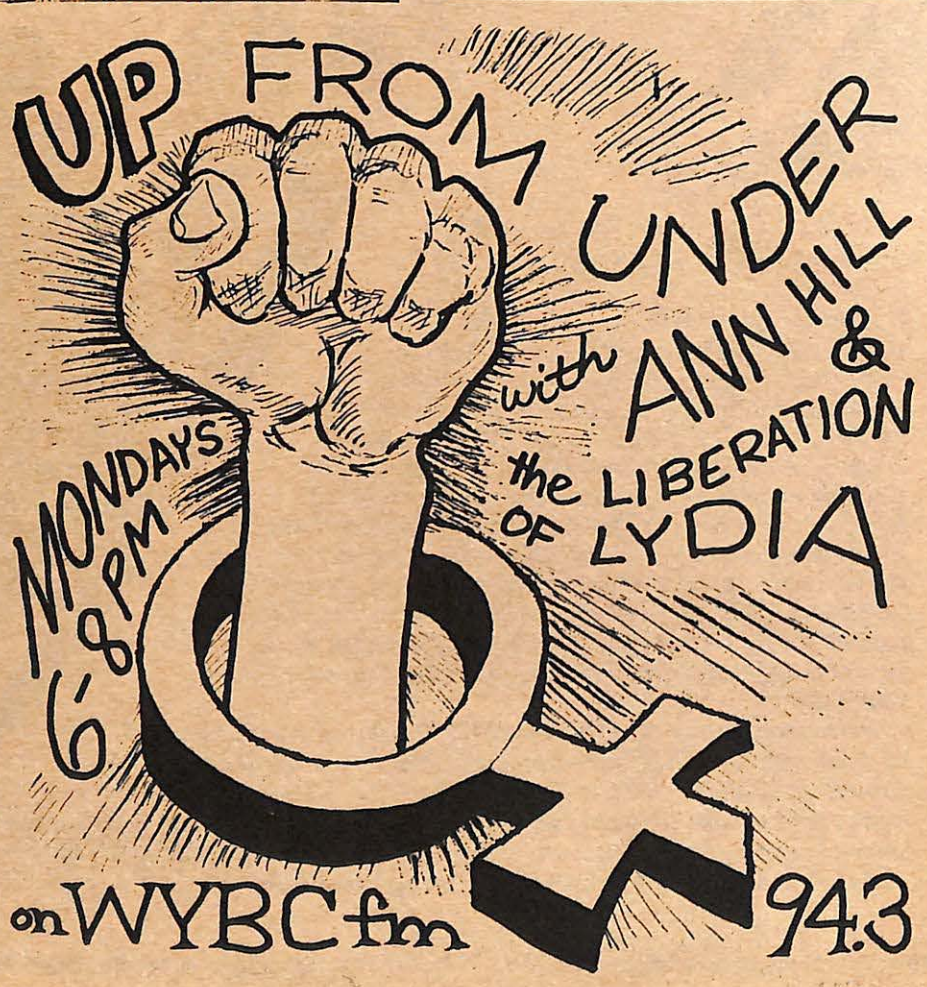

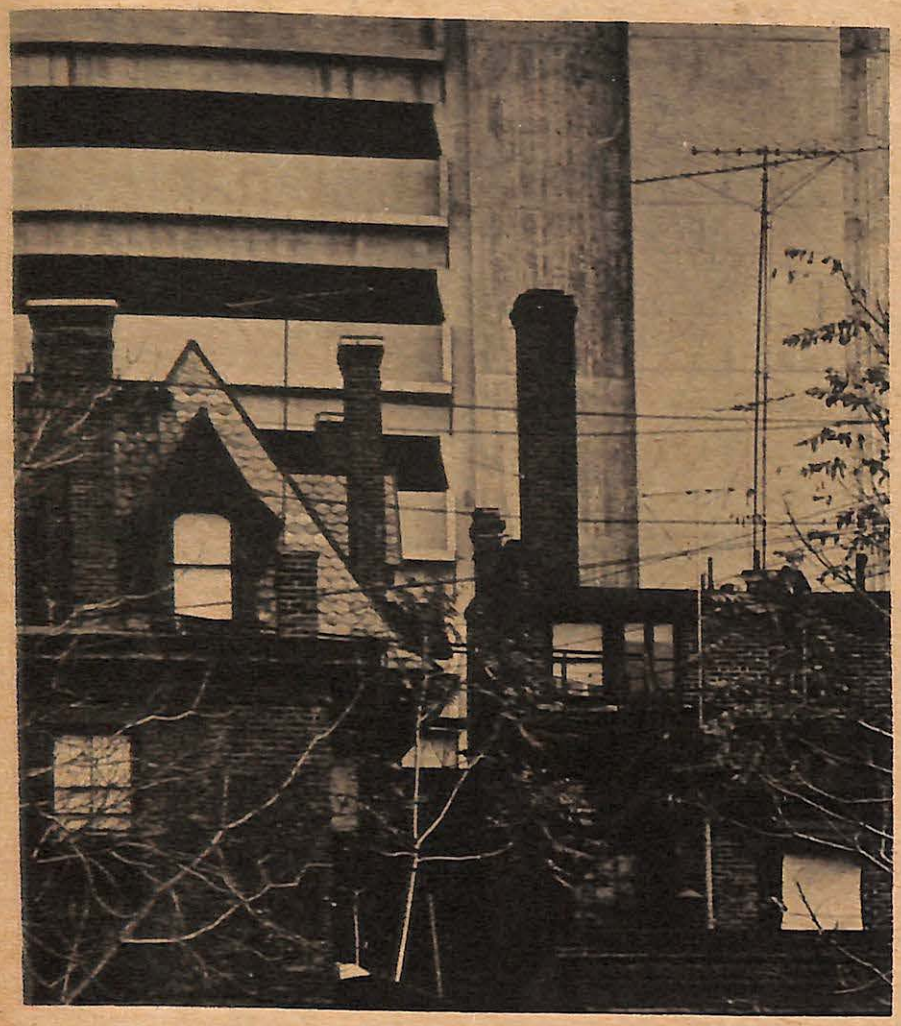

How would you like to look out your window one day and find this growing in your front yard? (Crown St. Garage, College St. side) (M-T photo by V.Blaisdell)

NLRB Panel Overrules Hungry Charley's Union

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

A National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) panel has overruled an examiner's decision and ordered a union election for the 12 employees of Hungry Charley's restaurant on York St. The NLRB ruling stems from unfair labor practices charges against Restaurant Associates, the large corporation which which owns Hungry Charley's.

The NLRB examiner's decision, after an investigation last summer, had ruled that the union representing the Hungry Charley's workers, Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, be certified as the bargaining agent. According to the examiner, Thomas Ricci, the actions of Restaurant Associates during a recognition strike between February and April of 1971 had so prejudiced the outcome of an election, that union recognition was the only fair decision for the workers.

The original examiners' report stated that on January 29, 1971, when Local 217 demanded recognition from Restaurant Associates, it represented a majority of the employees.

Restaurant Associates not only refused to recognize the union but also tried to bribe the strikers with offers of higher wages if they abandoned the union and the strike. According to labor law, such offers constitute an unfair labor practice.

According to Local 217 business agent, John Wilhelm, the recent NLRB decision smacks of "Catch 22". The NLRB panel ruled by a vote of 2-1 that an election would be fair because Restaurant Associates never made good on its bribes. However, Wilhelm points out, Restaurant Associates didn't have to come through because the bribe offers were successful in forcing the workers to give up the union and the strike.

According to the dissenting NLRB opinion, when the strikers had returned to work, "what had been virtually eliminated by that time by (the owner's) unlawful conduct was any further adherence to the union and any possibility of a fair election -- not any lingering effect which the promised benefits might have had."

No date has been set for the union election.

A Women's Work Day will be held from 10am to 5 pm on Saturday, Feb.26, at Center Church Parish House, 311 Temple St. The event will feature workshops on 4 topics: a speakers' bureau, a new women's course, fundraising, and political education. Childcare will be available.

Veteran Radical Speaks on Social Activism

Modern Times Staff

Gil Green, long-time Communist Party activist, discussed his views on the upsurge of social activism which began in the 1960's at the January monthly forum sponsored by the Angela Davis Bookstore. He is author of ***The New Radicalism: Anarchist or Marxist?***

He began his critique with praise for those young people who moved from the "silent generation" of the 1950's to the "new radicalism" of the 1960's with its movements against war, racism and repression. However, he pointed out that in many cases these movements strayed away from dealing with issues affecting working and poor people's lives, and therefore alienated necessary allies. He referred to these tendencies as anarchistic. For example, the civil rights movement sought the right to vote for black people, but later some student groups denounced all elections as frauds and farces.

For Green, what has gone wrong is that much of the "New Left" has thought in terms of the young generation vs. the older generation rather than the working class vs. the corporate class. He said this lead to the idea that the working class is part of the establishment rather than a powerful and necessary force for social change. Also, he explained that the "generation" analysis resulted in a "do your own thing" attitude: that the hippie movement fails to understand the power of unity in organization.

Lifestyles Working for Change

"I'm all for lifestyles," said Green. "*We all have one!*" *He went on to say that he has always tried to live in a revolutionary lifestyle.* He described this as one dedicated to building a new society based on the needs of the working class. "The revolutionary is one who lives by his or her own labor, who wants change and is confident it can be brought about." Green, a construction worker, stressed that revolutionaries must have respect for those they work with.

He concluded his well-received talk to 75 people with a discussion of what he feels is a new stage of the class struggle opening up. "We are passing from one period to another...Previously U.S. imperialism was at its peak. Now it is in decline because of the dollar crisis, the trade crisis, and the defeat in Vietnam.

"A conscious attempt will be made by the corporate class to have the government intervene in every labor-capital dispute and to lower the living standards of the working class. The working class will fight back," he asserted.

He also emphasized that "the decline of imperialism places socialism high on the agenda of history." and that radical movements must "relate to the really big chances of building for socialism as the transition to a society of brotherhood and sisterhood without exploitation." In order to do this, he believes, *the radical movement must work in a* Marxist-Leninist manner: in a collective, organized way, with the interests of the working class as the highest priority.

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Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Davis-Waller, Goodrich-Newhall; Visel's Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market., 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Place; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster; FH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Nu-Way Market, Howe-Chapel; Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Esquire Restaurant, Chapel-Orchard.

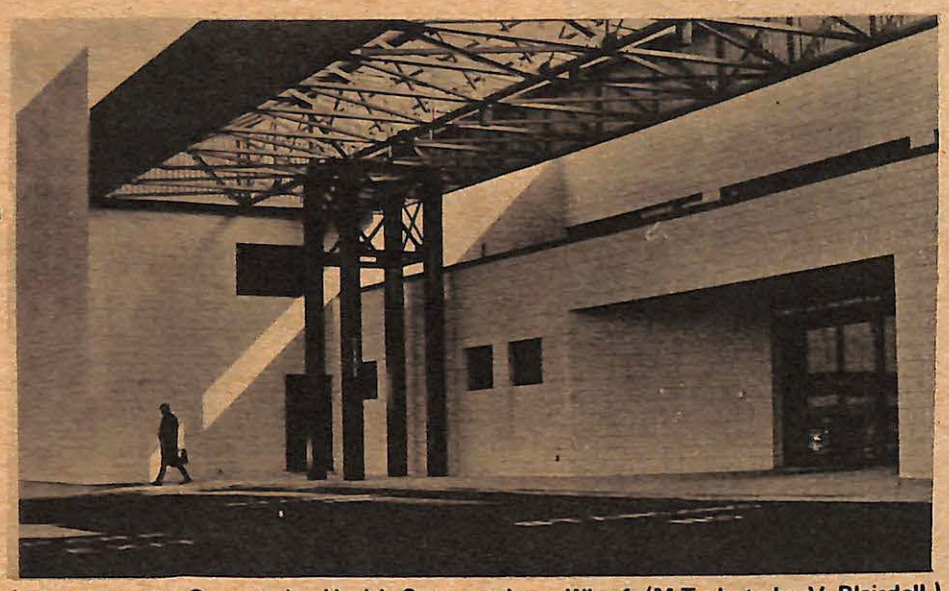
Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Superbooks, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gallery, York near Chapel; C & I Grocery, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthrop; LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New York Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.

Doctor Praises Community Health Plan

by April Reiss
Modern Times Staff

"Good medical care should be available to everyone." Because of this belief, Dr. Paul H. Lavietes agreed, despite his 64 years, to become the Medical Director of the Community Health Plan (CHP) at a time when he was looking forward to settling into a slower pace of life.

"I have always been discontented with general medical practices - impeded by the problems of bookkeeping, collecting fees or not collecting them - inefficient because each doctor does not have easy access to knowledge of their patients' total care - and based all too often on incentives of big incomes for good care."



Patient entrance to Community Health Center at Long Wharf. (M-T photo by V. Blaisdell.)

The Community Health Plan offers pre-paid medical care. It began in October, 1971 as a result of a combined effort of the medical profession, the Central Labor Council, and other community groups. Technical studies were done by the Department of Public Health at Yale's School of Medicine;

The health plan is based on group membership, usually centered on employment. Often employee fringe benefits pay for some or all of the enrollment fee. However, any group of 25 people can join CHP.

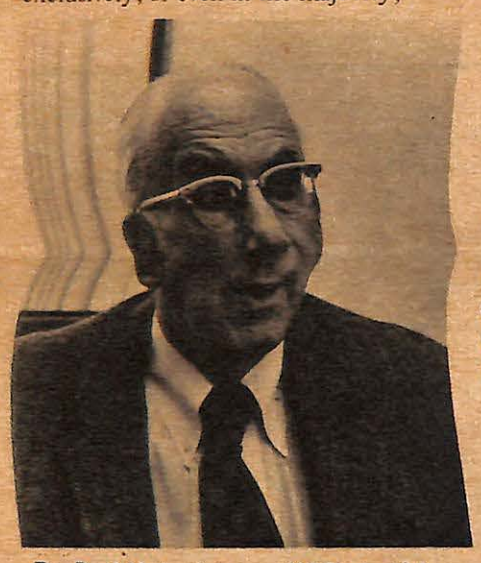
CHP's policy-making board of directors is unique because they are not exclusively, or even in the majority, doctors. It is a community board, with members from labor, management, civic leadership, members of the Yale-New Haven Medical Center, and members of the medical, dental, and nursing professions; one quarter of the Board members are reserved for future election by enrollees.

The purpose of CHP is to provide as much care to patients as they need for a fixed fee. The plan offers patients their choice of doctors and at the same time guarantees that, in the doctor's absence, records will be available to a competent doctor who is on call.

Patients can have all medical care under one roof, including x-rays, tests, discount prescriptions, and the setting of fractures. The plan includes hospital care at Yale-New Haven.

Hospital time will be shortened because many pre-operative tests and investigatory work can be done at CHP. *Minor surgery will also be done, thus* eliminating large anesthesiology and operating room fees, and long waiting periods.

CHP has set, as one of its major objectives, to secure private funding so they can engage in Health Manpower Training, Research and Evaluation studies. These programs will offer health benefits in a broader sense to the community as a whole.



Dr. Paul H. Lavietes (M-T photo by V. Blaisdell.)

Lavietes said he has always felt that doctors and lawyers and other professional people should be on a salary basis. "Then the efforts people make will be directed to giving good care, and not taking in more fees."

There are four full-time medical doctors on the staff of CHP. They are paid a salary commensurate with years of practice, with more credit given to years in group or public practice.

Nurses are closely allied as part of the medical team, and more responsible jobs based on skills and knowledge are available to them.

"Our membership is recruited from a broad base of the community; from factories, colleges, and employees of the state, and this gives the plan a true cross seetion of the community.

"We are negotiating with the Department of Welfare to determine the number of welfare people who will be eligible for CHP. Between 10% and 20% of the population of New Haven are on welfare, and our membership will reflect that percentage.

"I have found that working people take a special pride in CHP, like it's where they belong, probably because of the strong union promotion of CHP. Yet I still have my former private patients who come here on a fee basis who comment about the comfortable and congenial atmosphere that exists here, and they still send me letters of thanks for what they term 'special service'."

Lavietes feels that CHP is a place where everyone can come and know they are getting the best medical care, personal service, and the lowest possible prices. Other plans such as the Hill Health Center, and Yale's health plan are making similar strides that will improve health care for their customers, and indirectly for everyone due to the inevitable pressure for the same care outside the groups.

Edgewood Park Scene

(M-T photos by A. Kay)

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